

ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS

Annual Report on Large-Scale High Seas Driftnet Fishing: Section 206(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires annually that the Secretary of Commerce, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Transportation, submit a report describing and evaluating the steps taken by the United States to carry out the provisions of Section 206 regarding foreign large-scale high seas driftnet fishing. The annual report describes actions taken by the United States each calendar year to implement the global driftnet moratorium called for by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/215 and to secure a permanent ban on the use of large-scale driftnets by persons or vessels fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation.

The International Fisheries Division has produced the annual driftnet report since 1989. The most recent report covers calendar year 2000. Copies of these reports can be obtained from:

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Annual Report on the Activities of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

Section 212 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.*) requires that the Secretary of Commerce prepare an annual report to Congress on the activities of the NAFO Fisheries Commission, the General Council, the Scientific Council, and the Consultative Committee established under Section 208 of the Act.

Section 213(a) of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.*) requires that the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Secretary of State, shall promptly seek to establish a new practice for allocating quotas under the Convention that: (1) is predictable and transparent; (2) provides fishing opportunities for all members of the Organization; and (3) is consistent with the Straddling Stocks Agreement. Section 213(b) of the Act requires that the Secretary of Commerce include in annual reports under Section 212: (1) a description of the results of negotiations held pursuant to subsection (a); (2) an identification of barriers to achieving such an allocation practice; and (3) recommendations for any further legislation that is necessary to achieve such a new practice.

The International Fisheries Division has produced the annual report on the activities of NAFO since 1998. The most recent report covers calendar year 2000. Copies of these reports can be

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Annual Report on International Bycatch Agreements

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), was signed into law on October 11, 1996. Section 202(h)(1) calls for the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, to seek an international agreement to establish standards and measures for bycatch reduction that are comparable to U.S. standards in any fishery regulated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for which an international agreement is necessary and appropriate. The National Marine Fisheries Service held a consultation with the Department of State on February 5, 2001. The report to Congress is based on the findings of that consultation. [Note: This report has not yet been finalized, but should be available in March 2001.] For more information, contact:

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Annual Report to Congress required by ATCA

The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) 16 U.S.C. 971j et seq. requires an annual report to be submitted to the Congress that:

(1) details for the previous 10-year period the catches and exports to the United States of highly migratory species (including tunas, swordfish, marlin and sharks) from Nations fishing on Atlantic stocks of such species that are subject to management by the Commission;

(2) identifies those fishing Nations whose harvests are inconsistent with conservation and Management recommendations of the Commission;

(3) described reporting requirements established by the Secretary to ensure that imported fish products are in compliance with all international management measures, including minimum size requirements, established by the Commission and other international fishery organizations to which the United States is a party; and

(4) describes actions taken by the Secretary under section 971d of this title.

[Note: The 2001 report has not yet been finalized, but should be available in May 2001.]
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Biennial Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) 16 U.S.C. 971i(a) et seq. requires a biennial report on Atlantic bluefin to be submitted to the Congress that includes:

- (1) The level of taking of bluefin tuna by U.S. fishermen in the Convention Area as defined in Article I of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);
- (2) The status of bluefin stocks within such Convention Area and trends in their population level;
- (3) Related information resulting from the implementation of the observer program under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1827.

[Note: The 2001 report, which covers the years 1999-2000, has not yet been finalized, but should be available in May 2001.] For more information, contact:

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